

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
CHAPEL CENTER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2360)
Off New York Road, Between Kansas and Idaho Avenues
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-BQ

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE CHAPEL CENTER (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2360)

HAER No. NY-326-BQ

Location: Off New York Road, Between Kansas and Idaho Avenues,
Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.622040.4947320
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1958

Architect/Engineer: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2360 provided sanctuary and religious education facilities in one complex. The chapel included the chancel with altar, pulpit, lectern, choir with pews, nave with pews, choir and chaplains sacristy, refectory and activities room, chaplain and chaplain-related services personnel offices, confessionals, blessed sacrament room, services rooms, and patron and staff toilet facilities.

Project Information: Building No. 2360 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
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Summary Description of Chapel Center (Building No. 2360)

Layout

Building No. 2360 consists of a main sanctuary area, separated from an associated wing housing the religious education facilities. The main chapel is a double-volume space, clad on the exterior in red brick. It has a front-gabled roof and a rectangular plan measuring 100'-11" x 65'-2" in width. The sanctuary area has the expected tall window openings, divided into square panes, on the sidewalls of the nave. The chapel is connected to the education center via a one-story, brick offset measuring 36'-6" x 23'-3". Extending above the offset is a steeple resting on a brick base and topped with a cross.

The religious education facility wing is a one-story, gable roof section constructed of red brick. This section is parallel to the chapel and measures 38'-8" in width and 83'-4" in length. This facility has paired, one-over-one, double-hung windows.

Alterations/Additions

There have been no known additions or alterations to Building No. 2360.

Function

Building No. 2360 was designed, built, and used as a church/Sunday school facility.

Significance

The people who flew, maintained and supported the mission of Plattsburgh AFB during the Cold War contributed to America's most important military mission—nuclear deterrence as part of the strategic triad. They performed with sacrifice, dedication and excellence. Moreover, because the overall Strategic Air Command (SAC) mission required large numbers of military personnel to live in close proximity to critical base areas needing to be manned at a moment's notice, it was necessary that facilities be provided which could afford these airmen—and their families—with a sense of community, within which they could perform their assigned duties. Given that churches, synagogues and mosques are essential to any American community, the Chapel Center, Building No. 2360, at Plattsburgh AFB played an important role in the spiritual lives of many military personnel and their dependents. And, it is for that reason that it played an important part in support of the larger SAC mission.

Sources

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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
CHAPEL CENTER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2360)
HAER No. NY-326-BQ
(Page 3)

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1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

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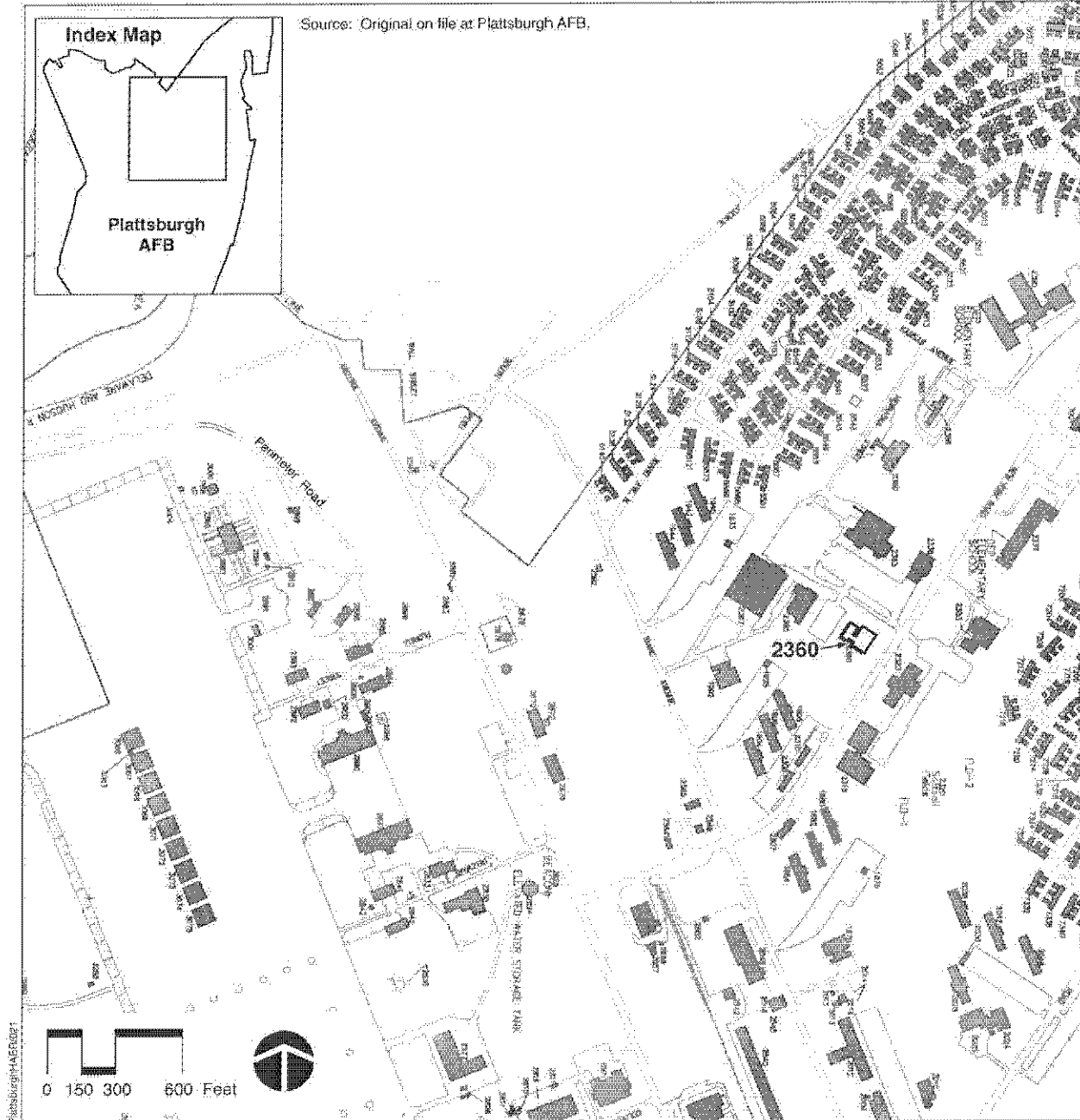
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2000 Plattsburgh AFB Real Property Inventory Detail List.

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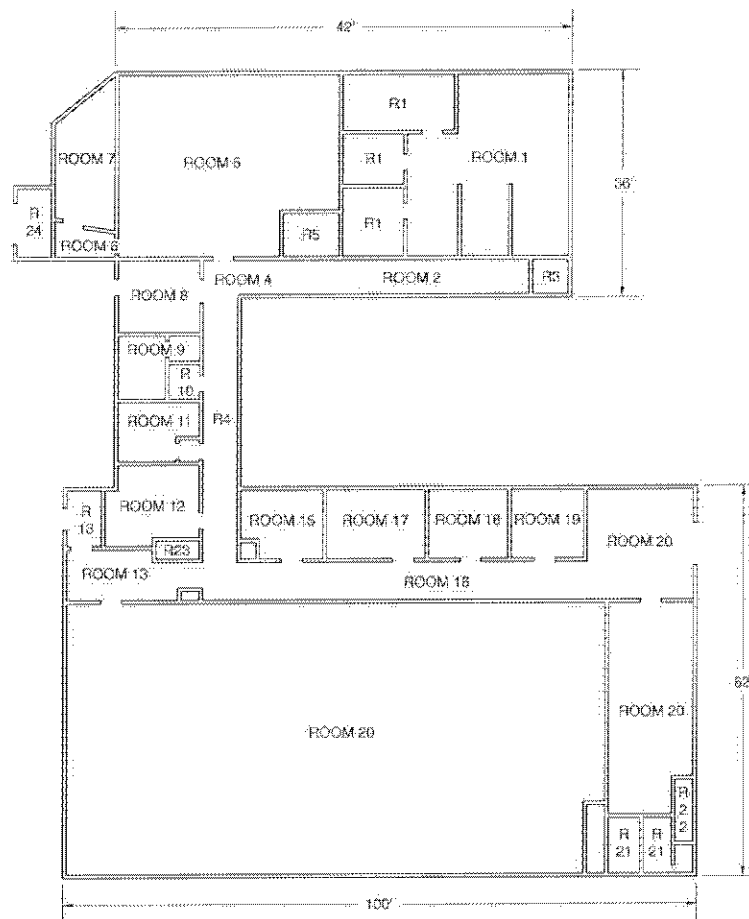
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
CHAPEL CENTER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2360)
HAER No. NY-326-BQ (Page 4)



Location Map for Chapel Center, Building No. 2360
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
 CHAPEL CENTER
 (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2360)
 HAER No. NY-326-BQ
 (Page 5)



SKETCH PLAN—CHAPEL CENTER
 (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2360)
 (Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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